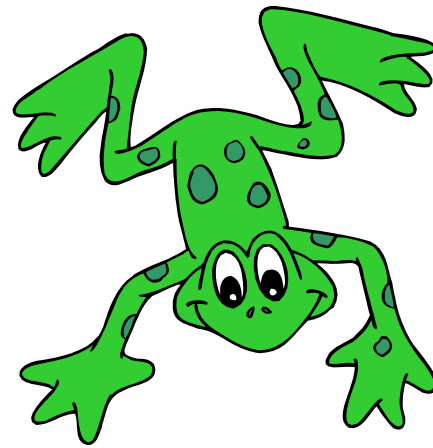


First Grade Leaps Into Learning

January 2011



First Grade's newsletter will now go home
monthly instead of weekly!

Reading News

Looking for ways to help your children become better readers?

- ***For all ears.*** Read aloud to your children even after they've learned to read on their own.
- ***Regular intervals.*** Set aside time each day to read with your child.
- ***Caught in the act.*** Let your kids "catch" you reading.
- ***A library of their own.*** Build affection and respect for books by creating your own library.
- ***Everyday opportunities.*** Read aloud anything with words - road signs, menus, billboards, cereal boxes - and present reading as a way to discover the world.

Math News

We continued our study of geometry (Math SOL 1.12, & 1.13). Can your child tell you what a **vertex** is? Look for geometric shapes around your house!

We will begin learning about the fractions $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{3}$ (Math SOL 1.3) on January 18. The kitchen is a good place to apply this concept. Look for fractions on measuring spoons and cups and explore the concept with them. Use cutting sandwiches or fruit into equal parts as an opportunity to learn about fractions. Talk about giving each person a "fair share" of cookies, pizza, juice, and all the other food choices that are made at your house on a daily basis. Try going on a fraction hunt and "play" with fractions.

Enrichment News

This week we have been learning about winter. We enjoyed reading stories about winter and learning about winter changes for animals, plants, people, and Earth (Science SOL 1.7).

Next week we'll be working on further developing map skills (Social Studies SOL 1.4, 1.5). This will include using ***cardinal directions*** and a ***map legend*** or key to locate places on maps. Students will create a map legend.

During the third week of January we will learn about matter (Science SOL 1.3). Important facts to know about matter:

- Matter is the material that makes up everything on Earth.
- Matter can be solid, liquid, or gas.
- All matter, whether solid, liquid, or gas, takes up space (has volume) and has weight (mass).

During the last week of January and the last week of the second advisory, we will be learning about Eleanor Roosevelt (Social Studies SOL 1.2). First graders are expected to know that she was a leader for equal rights for all people. She also volunteered for many organizations.

Writing Expectations for the 2nd Advisory

Writing expectations for the second advisory include:

- at least two complete and related sentences,
- sufficient relevant details
- each sentence begins with a capital letter,
- each sentence ends with appropriate punctuation mark,
- the word "I" is capitalized,
- word attack skills are applied to spelling
- "NO EXCUSES" words are spelled correctly.



Important Dates in January

January 10-14 Mid-Year PALS Testing

January 17 - NO SCHOOL MLK, Jr. Holiday

January 26 - Class Picture Day

January 28 - End of 2nd Advisory

January 31 & February 1 - NO SCHOOL Professional Days for Teachers